

CHATTER.

(Being the personal opinions of the writer and for which no one else is in any manner responsible).

Some weeks ago a writer for a well-known health magazine contributed an article on the endorsement of well-known alcoholic preparations by eminent people. The facts set out were startling, to say the least. Most of the decoctions advertised extensively contain from 17 to 29 per cent alcohol, the following being the three leading alcoholic medicines: Greene's Nervura, 17.2 per cent; Paine's Celery Compound, 21 per cent; Peruna, 28.59 per cent. Over fifty members of the National House of Representatives have endorsed these medicines in the public prints, furnishing letters and photographs. Twelve of the august members of the United States senate, headed by that paragon of excellence, Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, endorse Hoff's Malt Extract, Peruna and Hayner's whisky. The last mentioned drunk producer was selected by Hon. William M. Stewart of Nevada, who pronounced it exceptionally fine for table and medicinal uses. But these lawmakers are not the only ones to subscribe their names and loan their pictures for the purpose of advertising booze, actors and actresses, including Julia Marlow, Marie Tempest, Modjeska, Cecilia Loftus, Maxine Elliott, Melva, Calve, Alice Neilson, Olga Nethersole, Nordica, Dan Frohman, John Drew, Richard Mansfield and scores more have testified to the excellence of medicines composed chiefly of alcohol. Admirals, including our beloved Winfield Scott Schley; Generals, of whom Joe Wheeler is one and Longstreet another; Governors, such as David R. Francis of Missouri and Richard Yates of Illinois; vice-presidents, like Garret A. Hobart; prominent women, such as Belva Lockwood, Mary Ellen Lease, Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, Clara Barton and a dozen or so more; educators, like Booker T. Washington, Max O'Rell, Dr. Cyrus Edson, Bernard Gilman, Benjamin B. Odell and a lot more have rushed into print telling what a good thing alcohol is when disguised as a medicine. The mother and brother of Captain Gridley, who commanded the Olympia at Manila, a niece of the late Senator Hanna and a nephew of President Harrison, all join in singing the praises of Peruna. Six justices of state Supreme courts add their testimony to the good produced by Nervura. Heads of labor unions and police officers shout the merits of Paine's Celery Compound.

But to crown all the following list caps the climax. First comes a testimonial from the late De Witt Talmage for Greene's Nervura; a good word for Paine's Celery Compound and Hoff's Extract from Rev. Chas. H. Parkhurst; a strong endorsement of Peruna, by C. L. B. Polson, sometime treasurer of the National Prohibition Voter's League; a letter from Mrs. E. C. Smith, treasurer of the W. C. T. U. of Kansas City, in relation to a well-known vegetable (?) compound for women; a similar endorsement from Mrs. Gertrude Williams, chaplain of the W. C. T. U.; a note of commendation for Peruna from Joseph H. Ridgway, secretary of the American Anti-Treat Society; a letter setting forth the merits of Paine's Celery Compound from Francis Murphy, the apostle of temperance; a boost for Duffy's Malt Whisky, by Rev. McLeod, a temperance worker of the Detroit Presbytery; one from James T. Jakeman, of the Mormon church, for Peruna, and a strong dissertation on Peruna by Bishop James Handy of the M. E. church, Baltimore.

Now when all these eminent people

endorse drinking in such forms how are we common folks expected to keep sober? Beer and wine, which are tabooed, contain only from 2 to 10 per cent of alcohol, yet chemical analysis has shown the medicines mentioned to contain from 17 to 29 per cent. And the man who drinks stuff containing that quantity of alcohol is going to need a jag cure course in a short time. Of all the testimonials those of Senator Stewart and Rev. McLeod are the best. They recommend whisky, pure and simple. There is less harm in good whisky than in these doctored medicines (?). It has been suggested that some of the testimonials printed are fakes; that the people did not furnish them and the firms using them did so without the knowledge of the persons quoted. If that be true then prosecutions should be started.

Medicines containing alcohol seem to be quite popular and have had a good run according to the percentage. A few years ago Greene's Nervura with 17.2 per cent alcohol, sold like wildfire. Paine's Celery Compound, with 21 per cent, came on the market and was all the rage, presumably because of the increased exhilaration produced, and then came Peruna, with 28.59 per cent. Well, no wonder these nostrums sell, when so strongly endorsed. But it is tough on the fellow who wants to brace up to pick up his daily paper and note that the best people in the country are advising him to buy stuff to make him drunk, because that is all there is to it.

Again we read of a successful plan to extract gold from sea water. This time it is an English syndicate that has the process. Sea water contains gold in about the ratio of one grain to each ton. There is enough gold in the oceans to liquidate the national debts of all the nations at one time and then some. As a matter of fact there is a lot in Great Salt Lake. Will Nebeker produced a button from two barrels of lake water several years ago that was neat and natty and weighed about two dollars. The proportion in the lake is much greater than in the ocean. It is possible that a method of extraction has been discovered. If it has it will not be long kept a secret. When it is public property then look out for a change in the monetary systems of the world, because gold will become cheap; very cheap, too cheap for a money metal. The production of silver is enormous and with a cheap yellow metal it may be that this generation may see fiat money, with nothing but the promise of governments behind it. There is a world of possibility in the situation.

The little Japs evidently look upon the United States as their best friend, because in a photograph of the celebration of the taking of Port Arthur in the current number of Leslie's Weekly, one of the principal streets of Yokohama, highly decorated with flags, displays nearly as many copies of the Stars and Stripes, as of the Rising Sun. It is possible, of course, that these flags were thrown to the breeze by Americans resident there, but if so the American population must be unusually large. It is only fair to presume that the Japanese hung them out as a token of the appreciation they wanted to show this nation for its unofficially expressed sympathy.

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